

Remarks

Claim 21 is canceled.

Claim 1 is amended.

Claims 1-5 and 7-20 will be pending upon entry of this amendment.

Claim 1 is amended to require that in step A), that unreacted monomers are removed and the nitroxyl terminated oligomer or polymer (macroinitiator) is isolated.

Support for this amendment is found in the specification, page 24, paragraph 5. Support is also found in the working Examples, pages 42-50. The product of step A) in the working Examples is termed a "macroinitiator".

No new matter is added.

Claims 1-5 and 7-21 are rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Robert, U.S. Pat. No. 5,945,492.

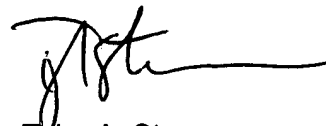
Applicants submit that the present claims in their amended form are neither anticipated nor obvious over Roberts. Roberts provides no hint towards the present process of specifically preparing a nitroxyl terminated macroinitiator, which is isolated (and characterized), and which is then employed in a second step to prepare a grafted thermoplastic or elastomeric polymer.

In view of the present amendments and these remarks, Applicants submit that the present claim rejections under 35 USC 102(b) and 35 USC 103(a) are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'T. Stevenson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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